

COVID-19's Impact on Boston College Students and Learning Outcomes

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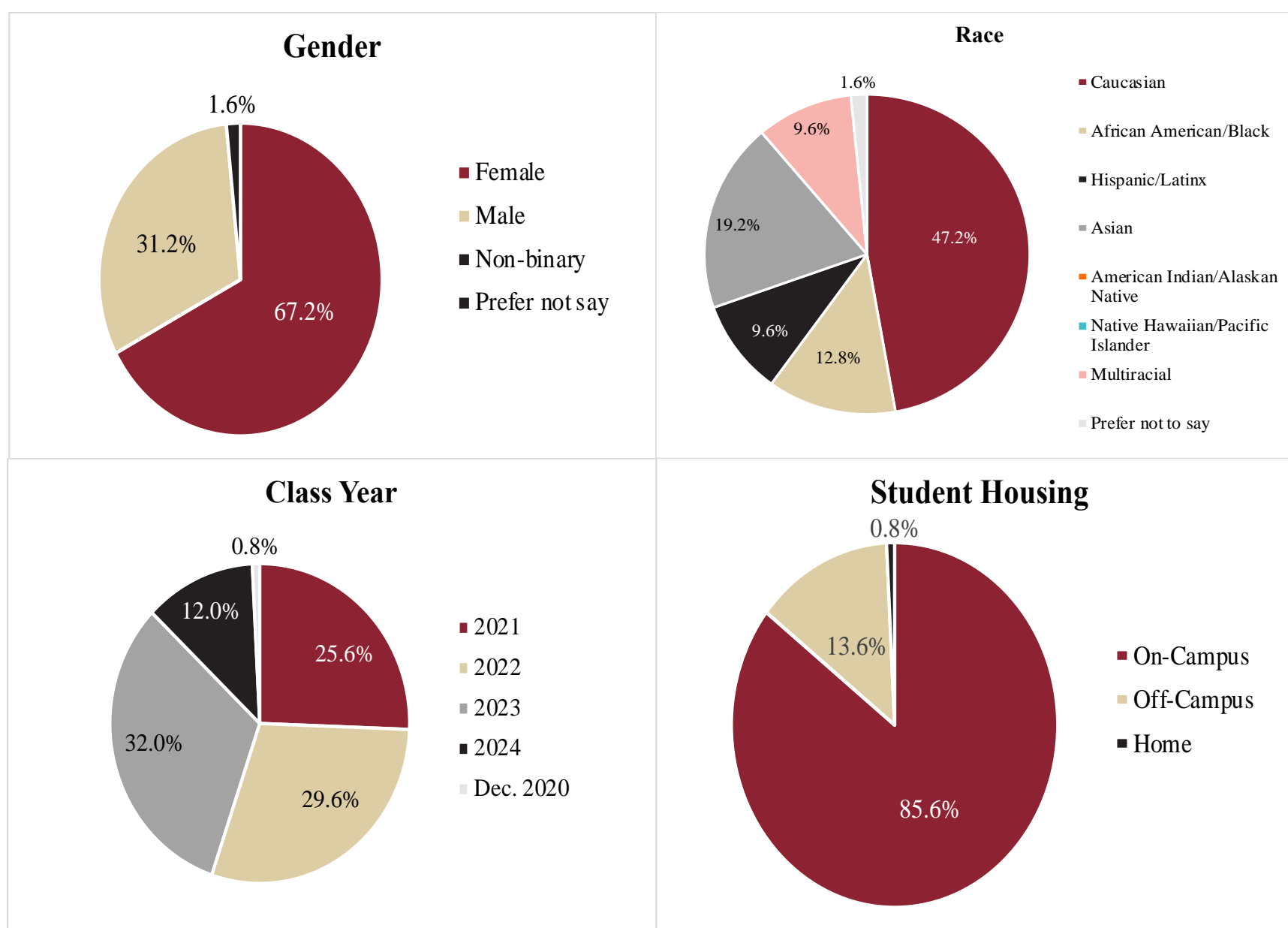
INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 has altered life as we know it, especially since its initial spike of cases within the United States in March 2020. The first indication for Boston College students that their lives were about to change was an email from University President William P. Leahy, SJ on Wednesday, March 11th which directed all students to evacuate campus by that Sunday evening. The Boston College community was impacted in ways that would have never been predicted upon the start of the 2019-2020 Academic Year. Presenting resilience and flexibility, the Boston College community quickly adapted to a new style of learning and interaction. While students departed campus on Sunday, March 15th, the learning did not stop there. All students proceeded to take their courses remotely from across the world, a BC experience atypical than any seen before. Despite being back on campus this fall, it is unclear exactly how the COVID-19 disruption has impacted the Boston College community. This project sets out to determine how Boston College students perceive that the pandemic and the consequent shift to new modes of learning have impacted their Boston College educational experience, post-graduation prospects, and well-being.

THE SURVEY AND DATA

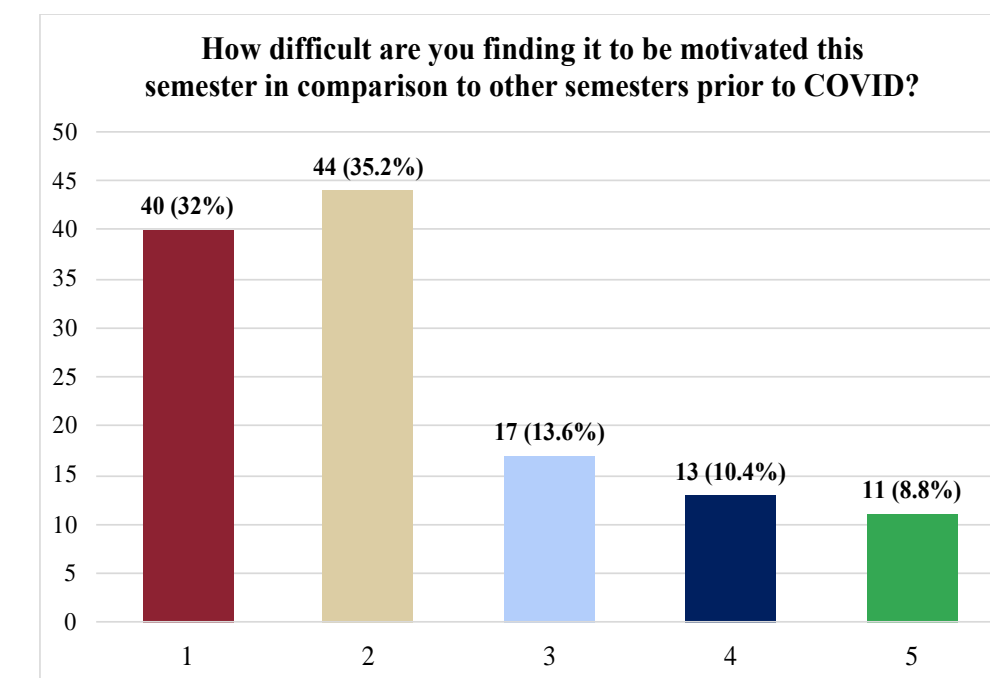
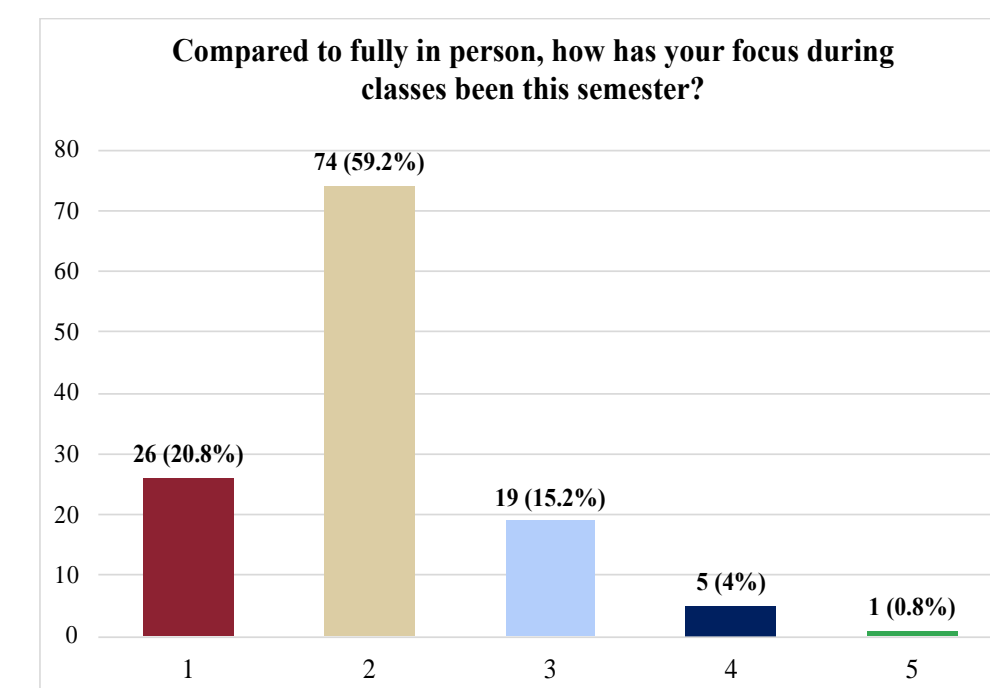
The researchers developed an anonymous, non-university affiliated, self-response survey which was sent out to people that they know within the BC Undergraduate Community. Survey completion was voluntary. In this survey, there were questions regarding demographics, academic life, health, and social life in order to determine what areas of the BC experience were most impacted by the disruption. The questions were all formatted in either a rating scale, true or false, multiple choice, or short response format. For the purposes of our analysis, we do not include the short response results due to their level of variation. Upon further investigation, the researchers determined that the educational and post-graduation impacts of the COVID-19 disruption were telling in how much the BC academic experience and career advancing opportunities have been altered.

Gathering 123 responses, the researcher assume a normal distribution. Below are some demographic information from the data responses.



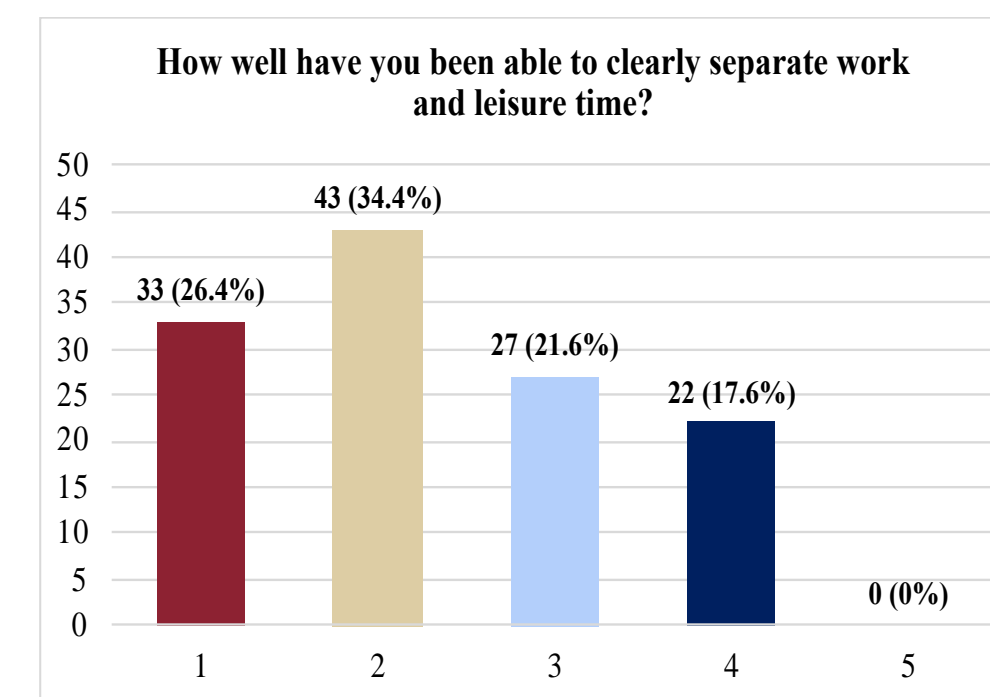
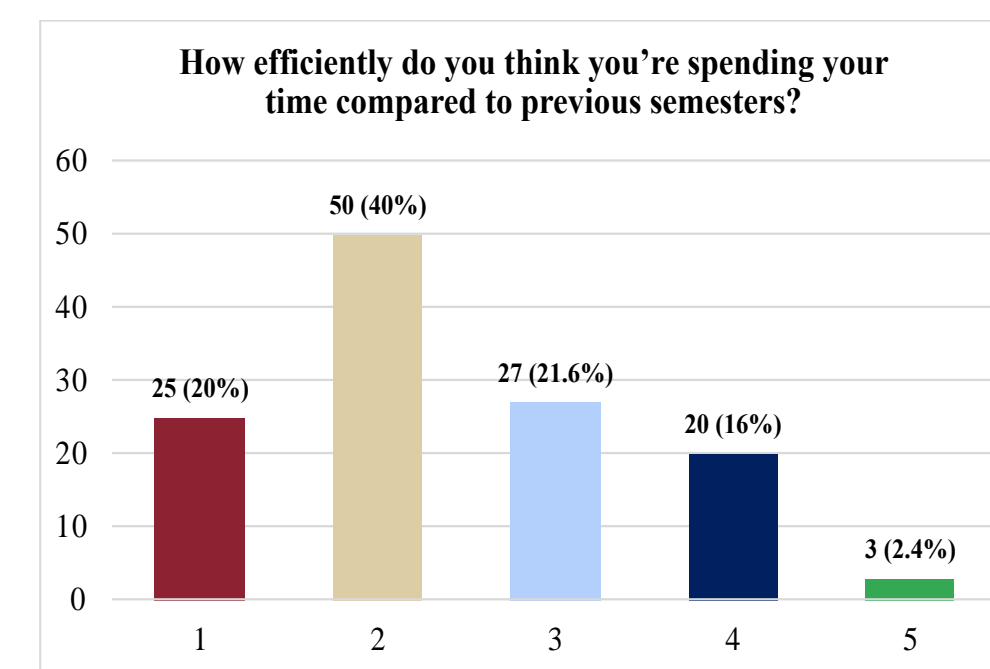
RESULTS

Focus and Motivation



*1 is very difficult, 5 is not very difficult

As seen, most students have found that focusing and staying motivated are more difficult compared to in-person classes and pre-COVID semesters.

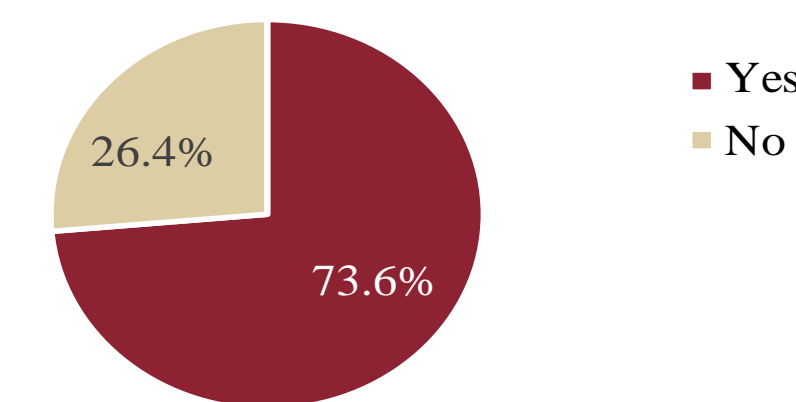


Learning Outcomes

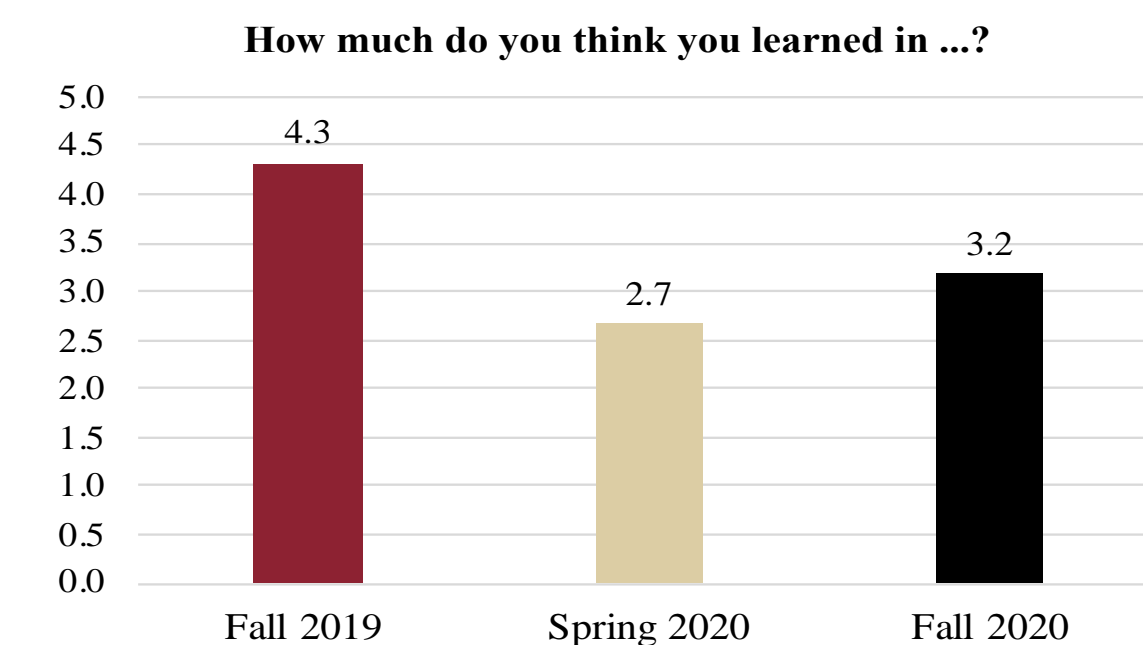
Type of Class	Average Number of Classes
Online Synchronous	2.03
Online Asynchronous	1.13
Hybrid	1.17
Fully In Person	1.10

- Breakdown of Average Number of Classes by type of class
- The average student has more online classes than in person classes

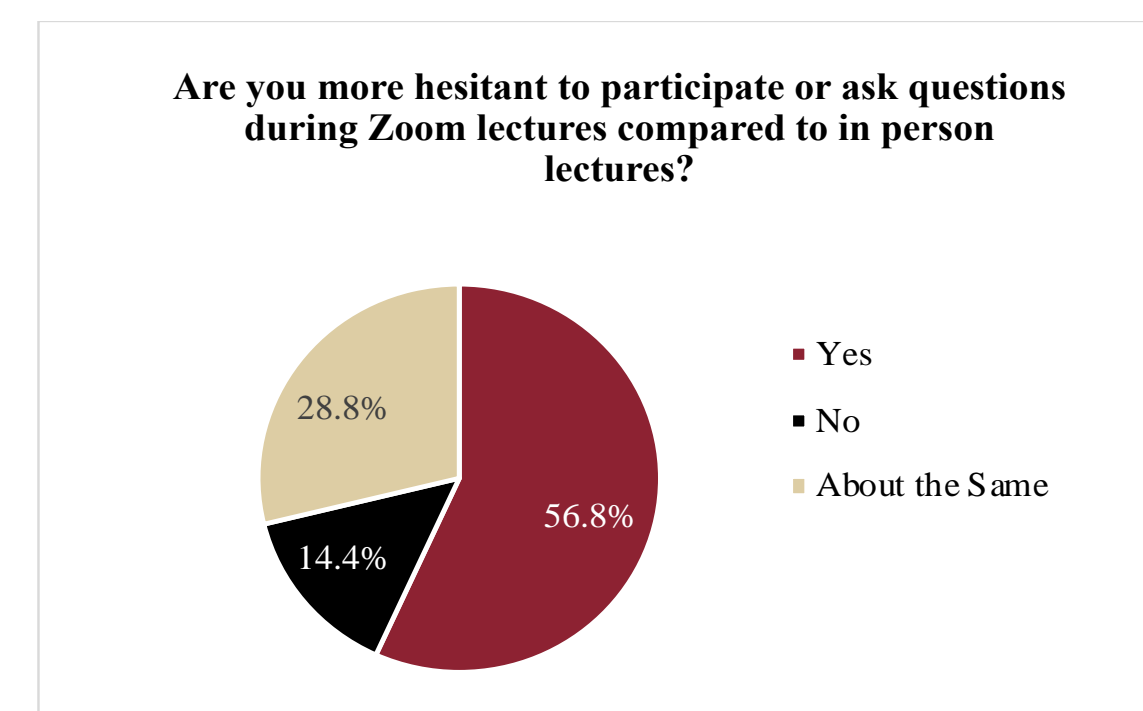
Online/hybrid classes are more work than in person courses?



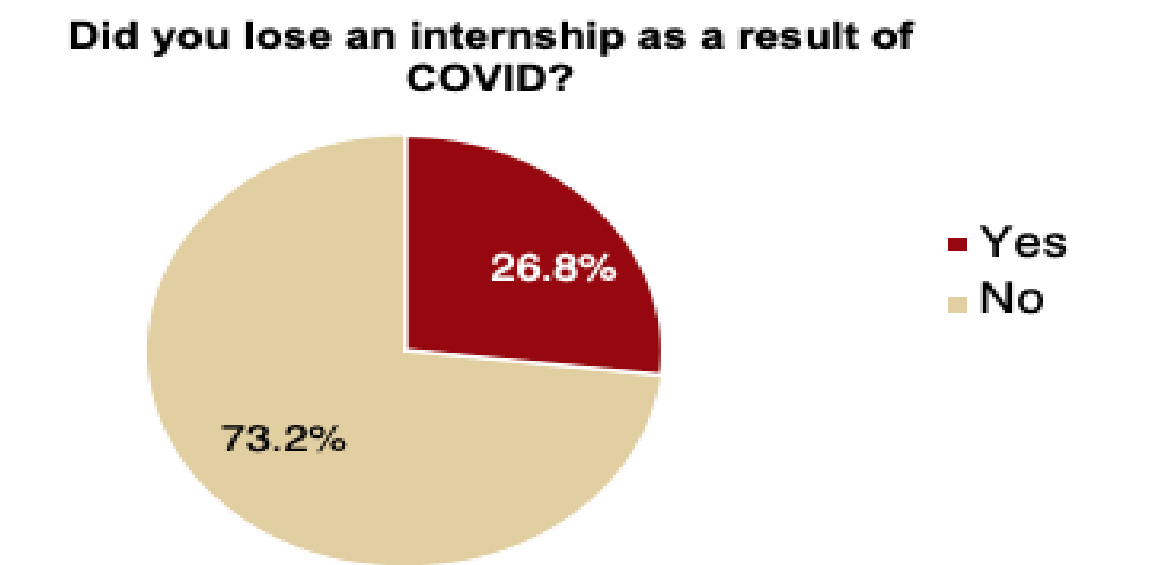
- 92.8% of students said they had never taken an online course prior to COVID
- Majority of students find online classes to be more work



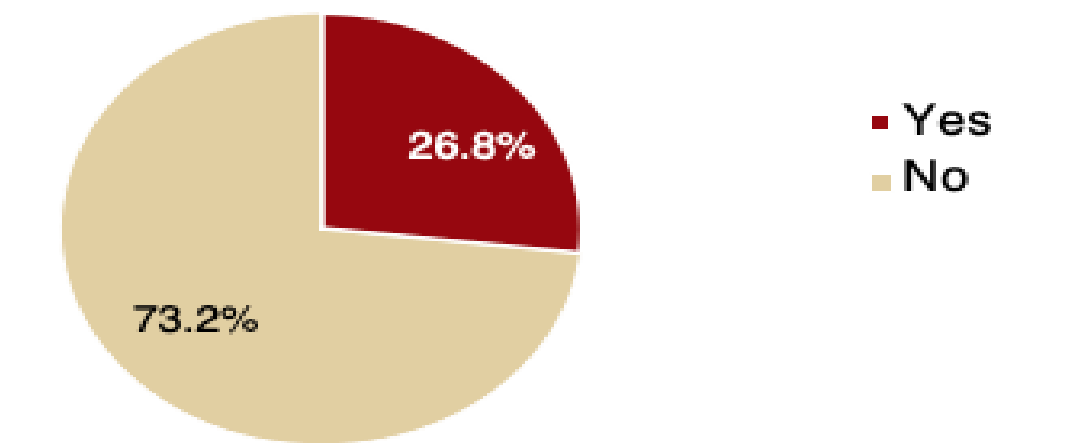
- Students believe that they are learning more now than in Spring 2020, but not as much as they learned prior to the virus in Fall 2019.



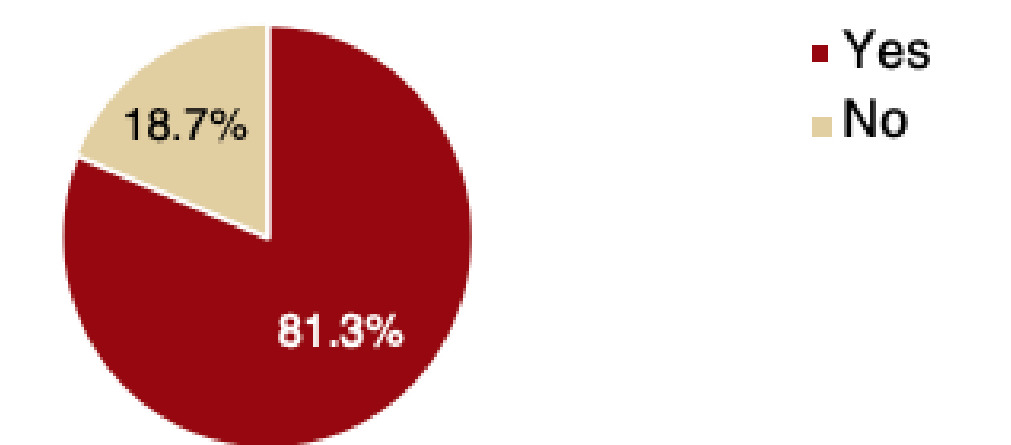
Future Prospects



Are you considering applying to graduate school because of COVID?



Are you finding that the prospect of employment, research, or academic opportunity are becoming more difficult as a result of COVID?



- As a result of COVID, students missed out on opportunities that could have further advanced their career and academic goals. With increased uncertainty, many students are considering applying to grad school, thereby delaying their entrance into the workforce.

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION

•According to students, Covid-19 has drastically altered the quality of education provided to them by BC. Although BC is back on campus, with a majority of classes being online/hybrid, many students feel that the reality of this altered classroom experience has significantly diminished the college educational experience.

•Students are also far more uncertain of their post-graduation prospects as the job market has vastly contracted compared to pre-pandemic times. In addition, canceled internships and altered classes have reduced the students' abilities to better envision their respective career paths. They are increasingly unsure of the pursuits of advanced degrees, full-time jobs, fellowships, and more.